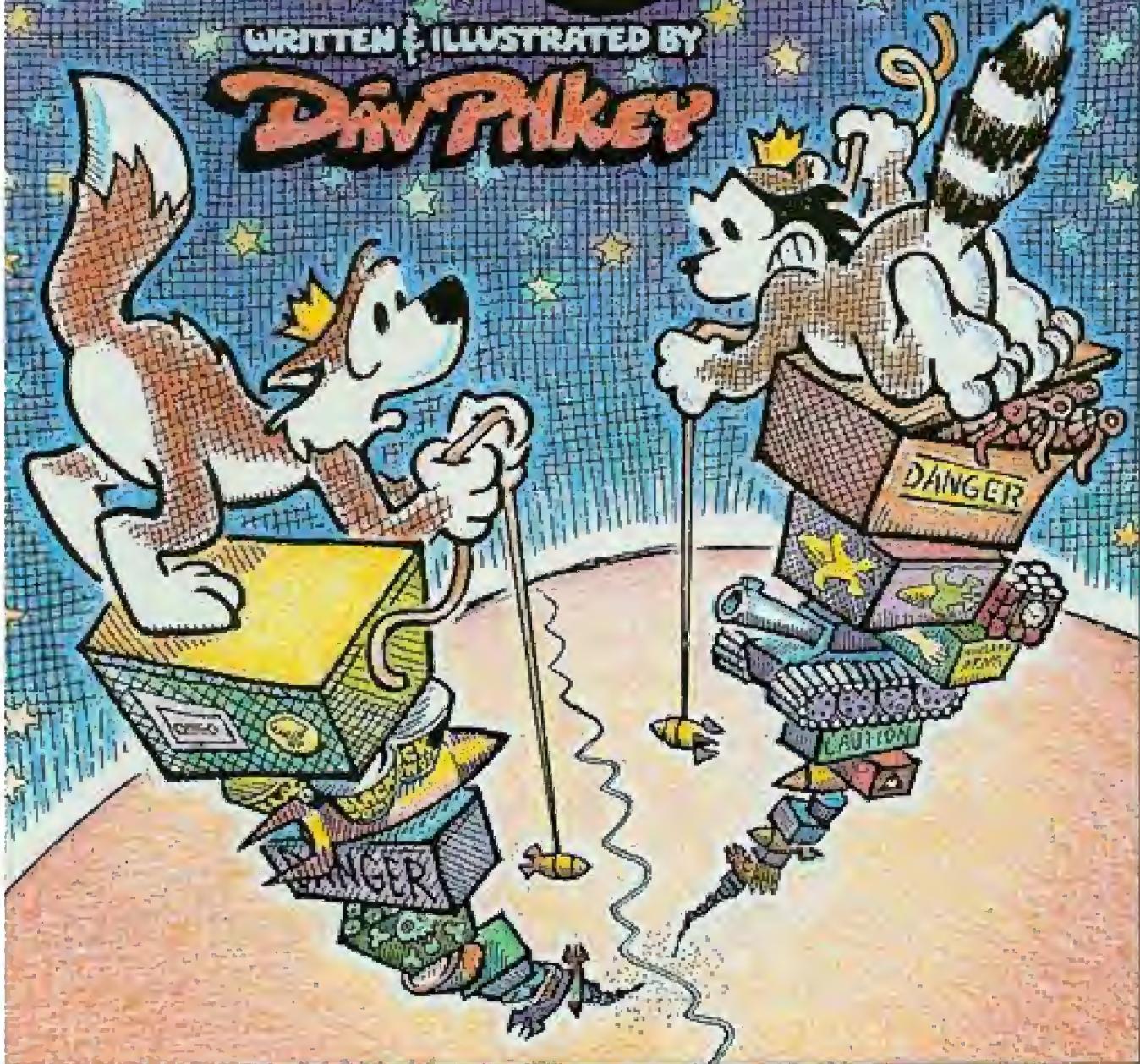


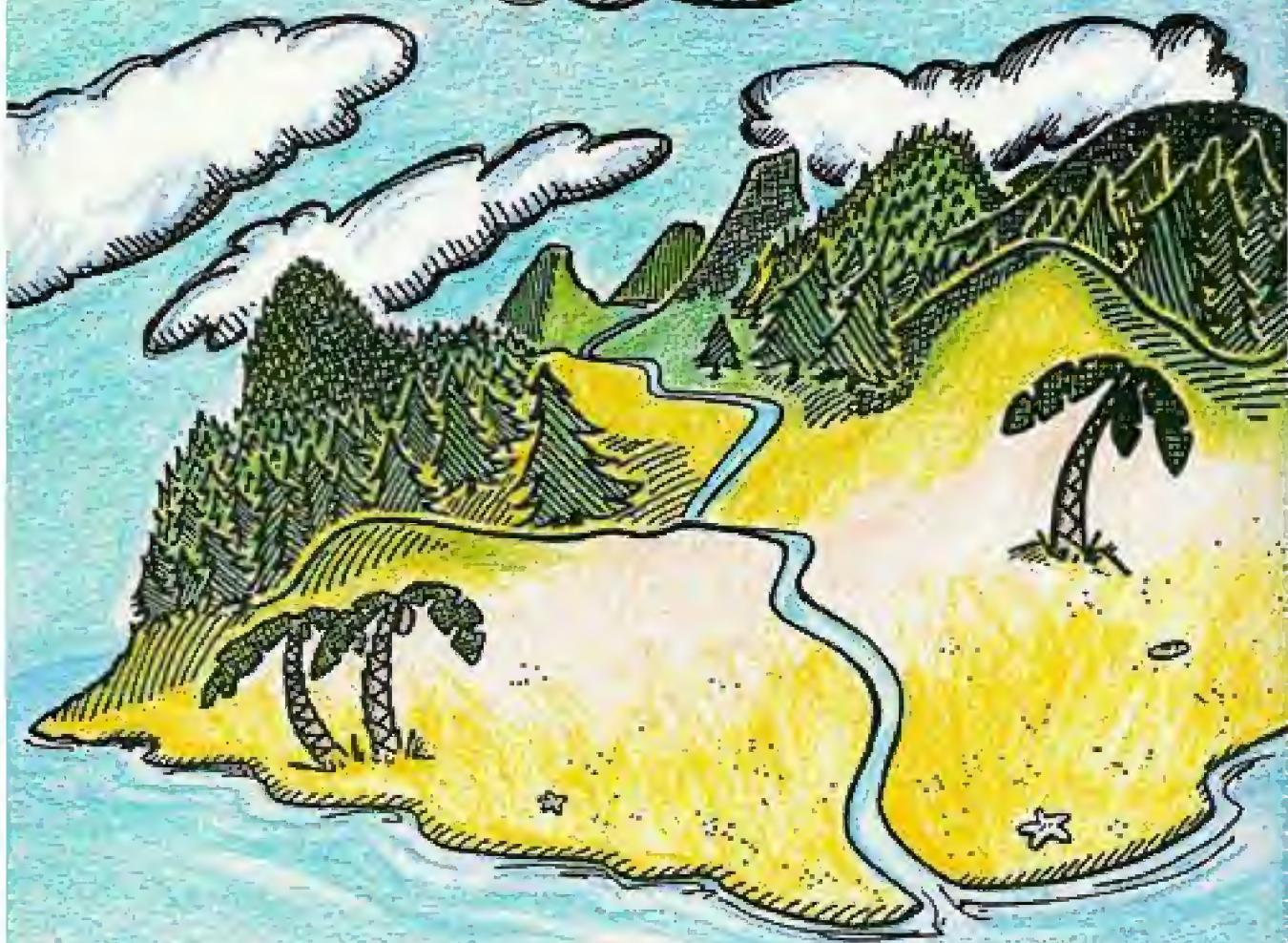
WORDWAR WON

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY

DAN PILKEY



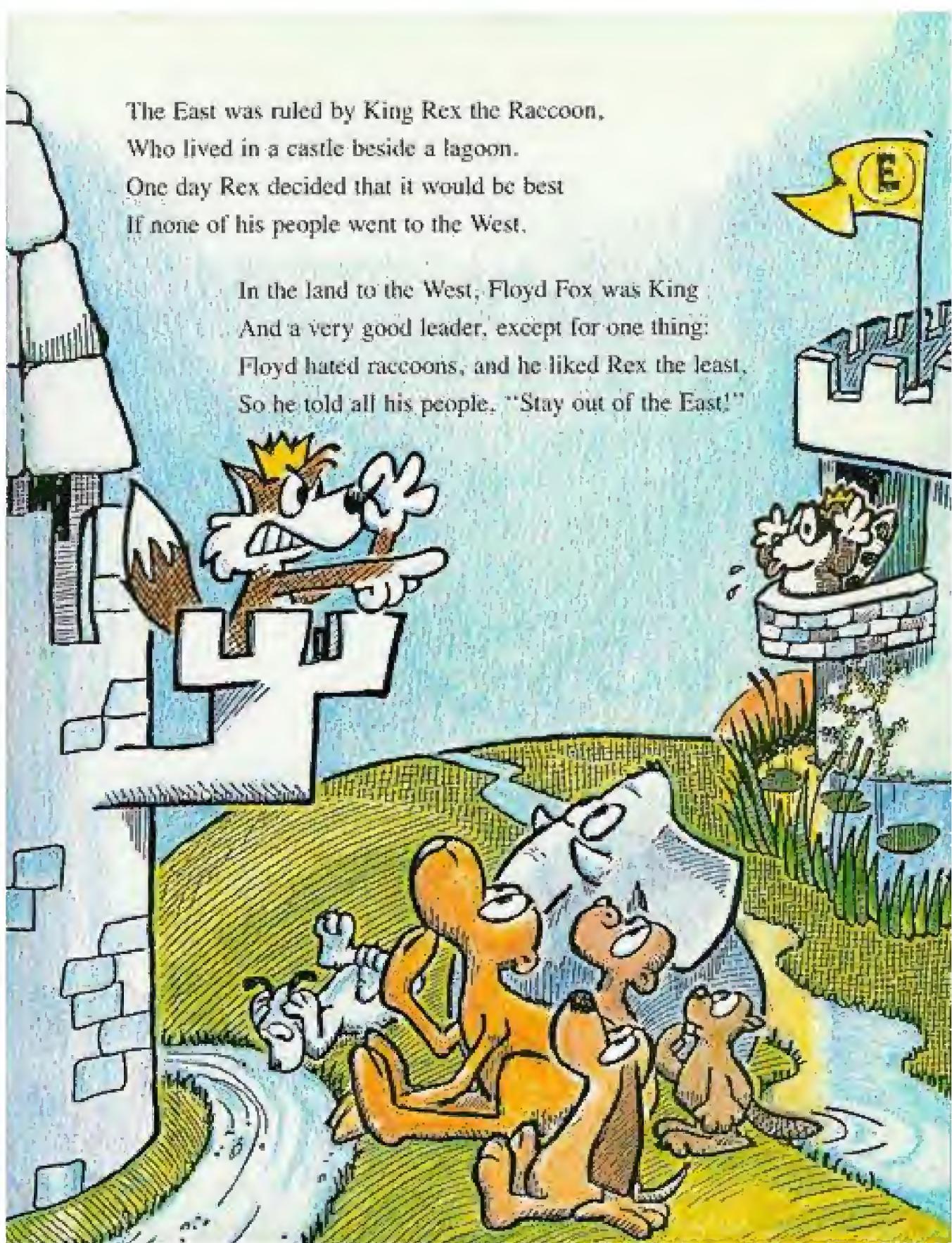
A short time ago, in far outer space,
There was a peaceful planet — a wonderful place.
The hillsides were covered with flowers and trees,
And the beaches stretched out to clear-water seas.



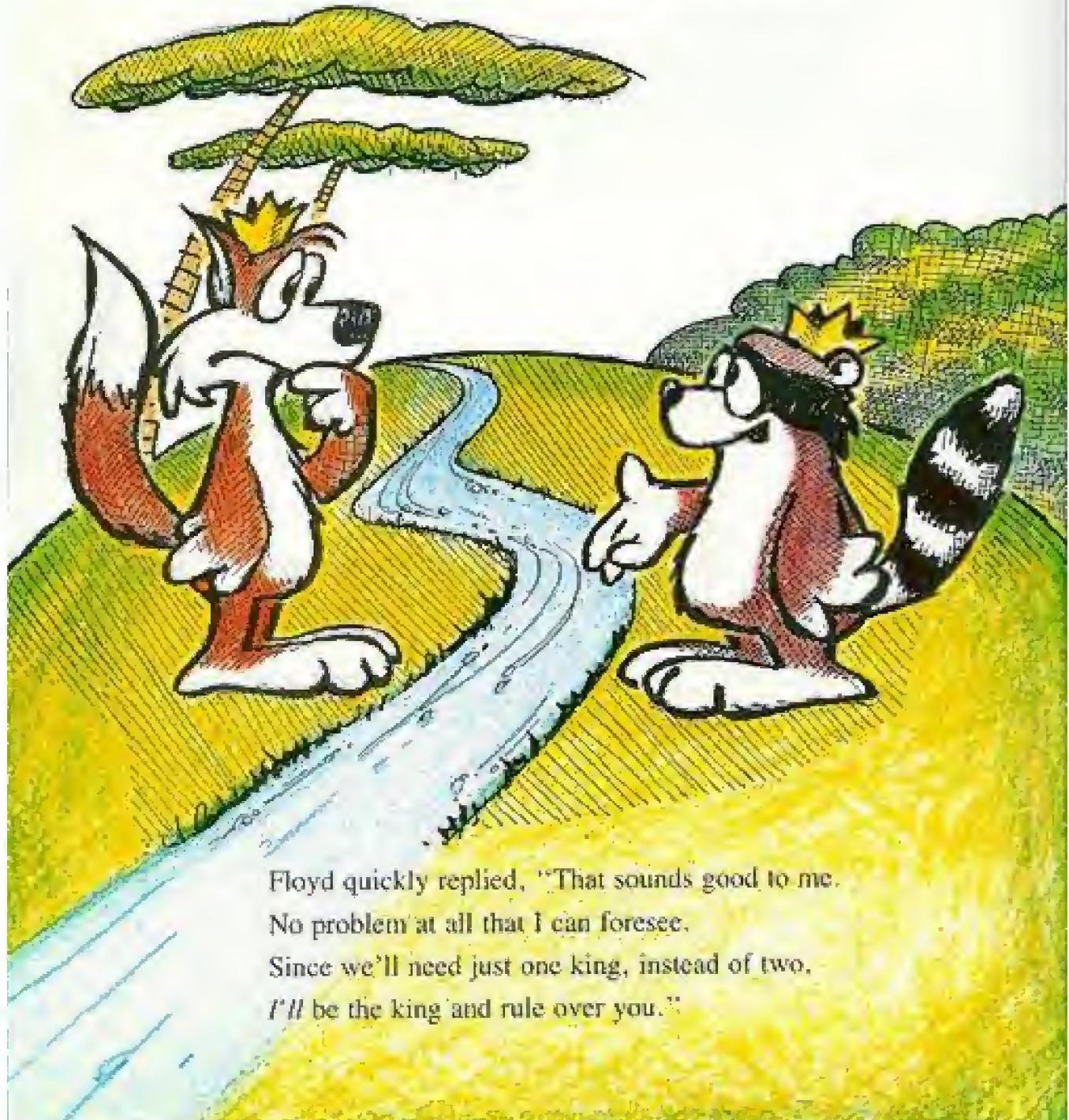
But on this fair planet, with the bluest of skies,
A problem arose and continued to rise,
The kings of two countries were causing unrest,
Splitting those in the East from those in the West.

The East was ruled by King Rex the Raccoon,
Who lived in a castle beside a lagoon.
One day Rex decided that it would be best
If none of his people went to the West.

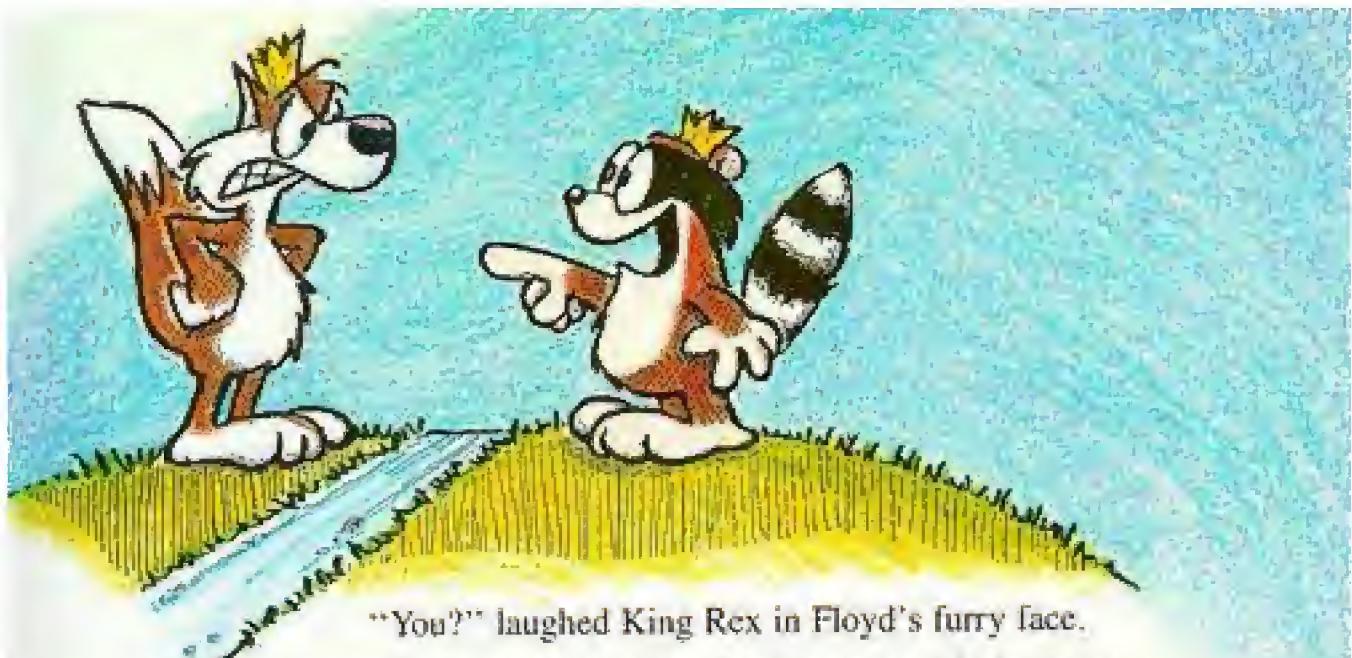
In the land to the West, Floyd Fox was King
And a very good leader, except for one thing:
Floyd hated raccoons, and he liked Rex the least,
So he told all his people, "Stay out of the East!"



One day when Rex saw Floyd by the spring,
He said, "Let's end this bickering thing.
Come and shake hands, Floyd, let us unite.
We'll have only one king and stop this dumb fight."



Floyd quickly replied, "That sounds good to me.
No problem at all that I can foresee.
Since we'll need just one king, instead of two,
I'll be the king and rule over you."



“You?” laughed King Rex in Floyd’s fury face.
“If you were the king, you’d ruin the whole place.
No! I will be King, that’s how it should be,
And you and your people will serve under me.”

“Ah, ha!” said King Floyd, “we’ll see about that!
I’m brave and strong, but you’re short and fat.
I’ll fight you right now, *that’s* what I’ll do,
And I’ll beat the tar right out of you!”





"Oh, yeah?" said King Rex, as he picked up a club.

"I'll bop your hard head, you big ugly lug!

Then *I'll* be the ruler!" Rex fiercely said.

"While you're out cold on a hospital bed."

But Floyd drew a knife from his sheath, and said,

"When I'm through with you, you'll wish you were dead!"

"Is that so?" raged Rex, as he picked up a spear.

"I'll get you first from way over here!"





But Floyd refused to turn tail and run.
He reached in his pocket and pulled out a gun.
"Oh, I can top that," King Rex slyly reckoned,
"Just stay where you are! I'll be back in a second."

And true to his word, Rex returned fully manned,
With belts full of bullets and rifles in hand.
"I'll bet," chuckled Rex, "you can't beat these now!"
But believe it or not, Floyd did it somehow!

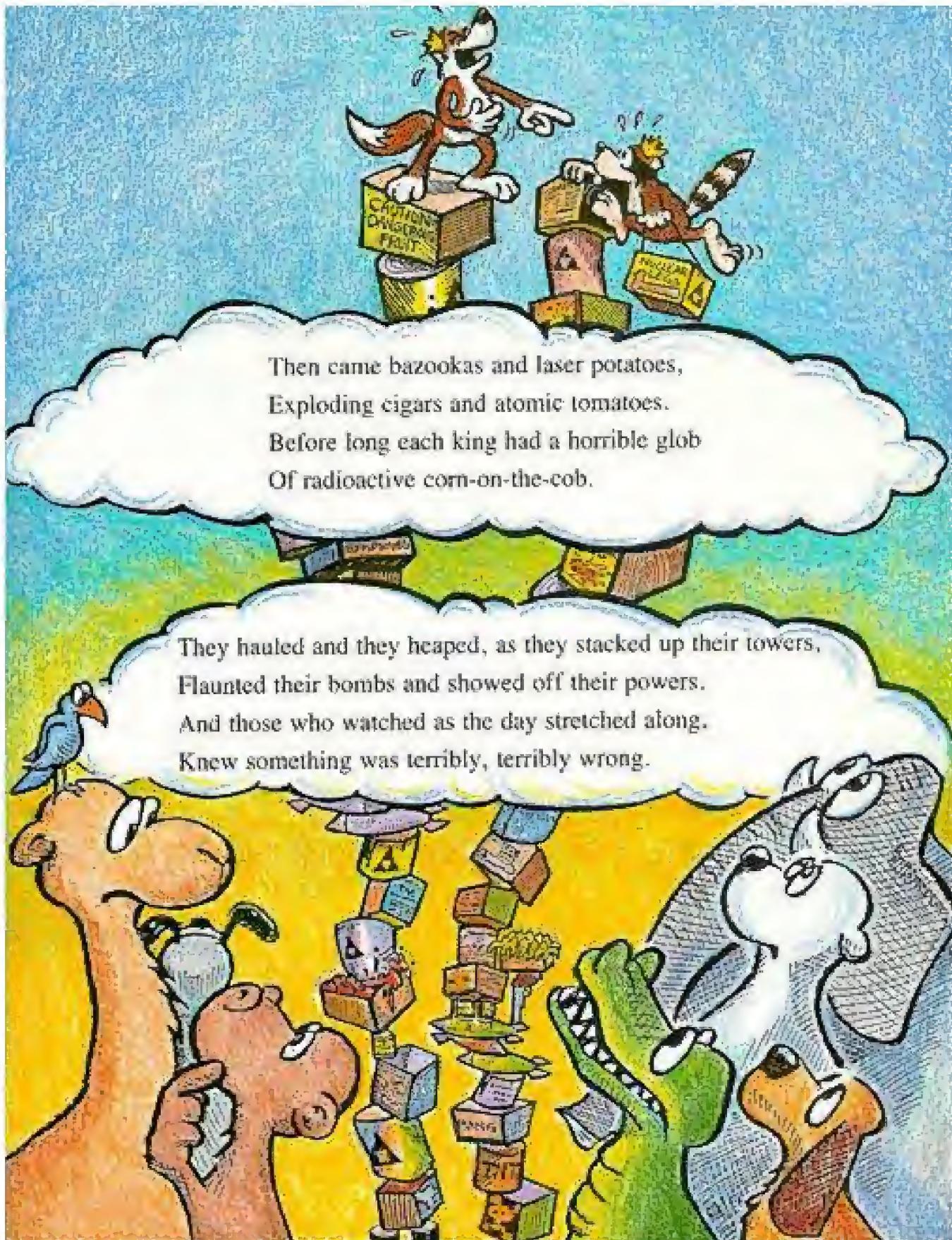




He boxed up grenades, a full, heavy load,
But Rex brought a bomb that was sure to explode.
Then both kings quickly built up their ranks,
With rockets and missiles and fortified tanks.

They piled on barrels of sulphuric scum,
With plastic explosives and hot pepper gum.
They hoisted up cartons of gunpowder eggs
And nuclear arms and nuclear legs.



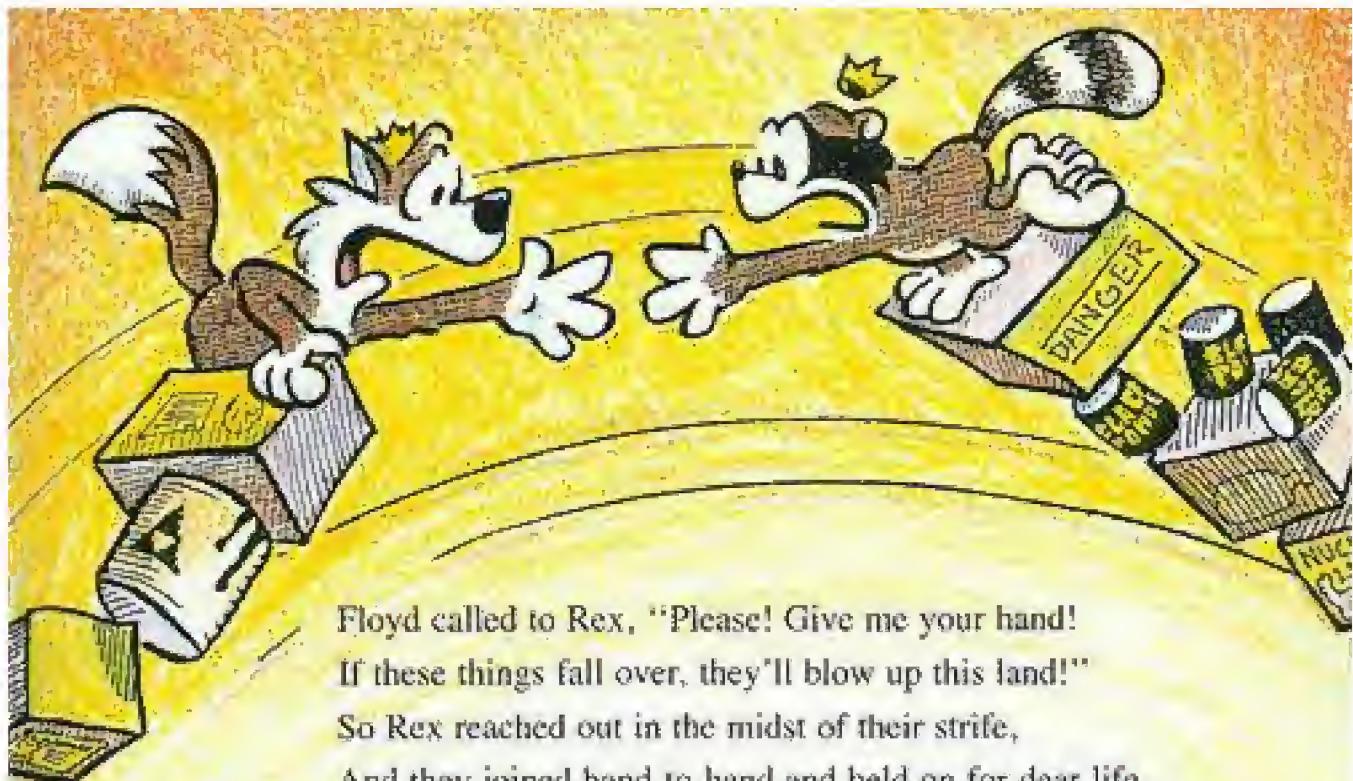




By evening their piles were stacked so high
That both of the structures reached up to the sky.
The kings then grew worried and scratched their royal crowns,
For they were too high to try to climb down.

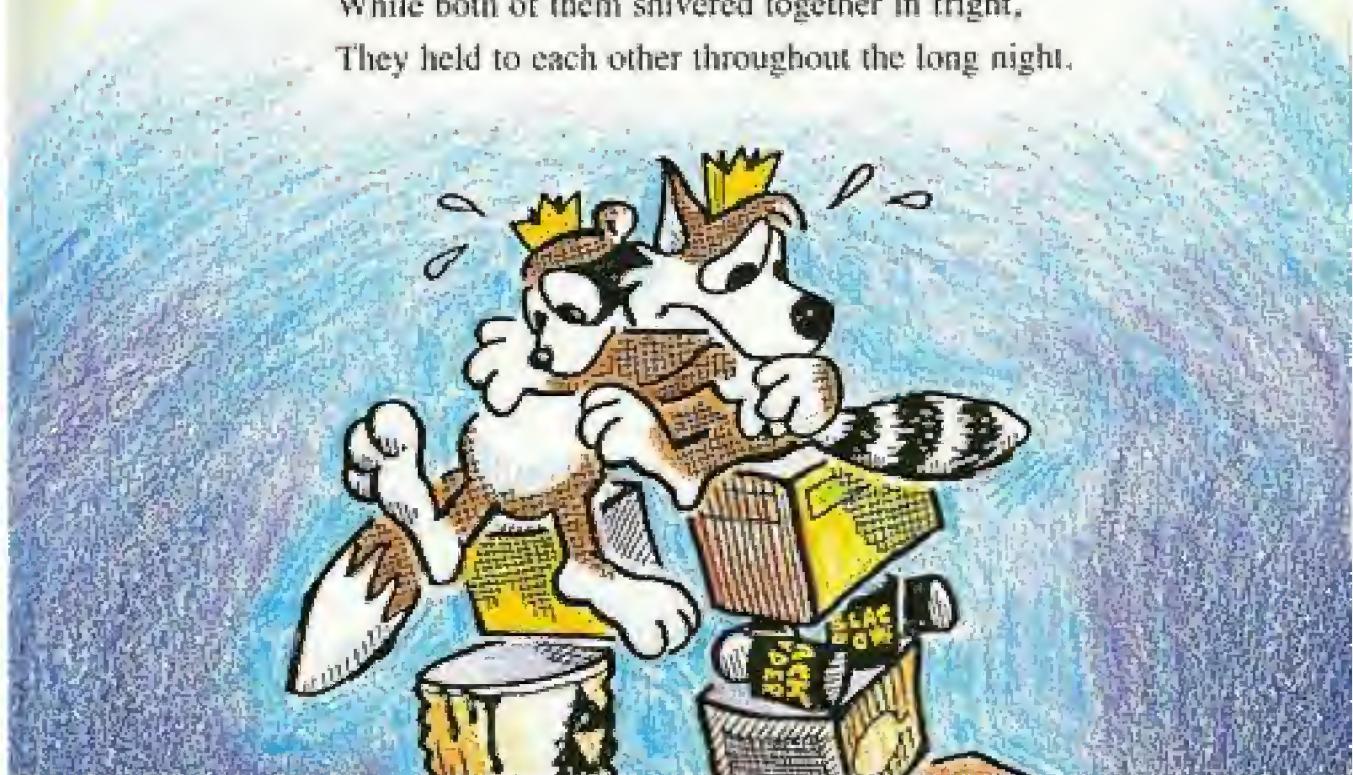
When suddenly the wind started to blow,
And the stockpiles began to sway to and fro.
The kings called their people to help them get down.
But no one could hear them from down on the ground.





Floyd called to Rex, "Please! Give me your hand!
If these things fall over, they'll blow up this land!"
So Rex reached out in the midst of their strife,
And they joined hand-to-hand and held on for dear life.

As they clung to their swaying structures of war,
They almost forgot what their battle was for.
While both of them shivered together in fright,
They held to each other throughout the long night.





By morning the towers had shifted so much.

They both could be toppled by one little touch.

“They’re bound to fall down!” one trembling voice said.

“If we don’t do something, we’ll all soon be dead!”

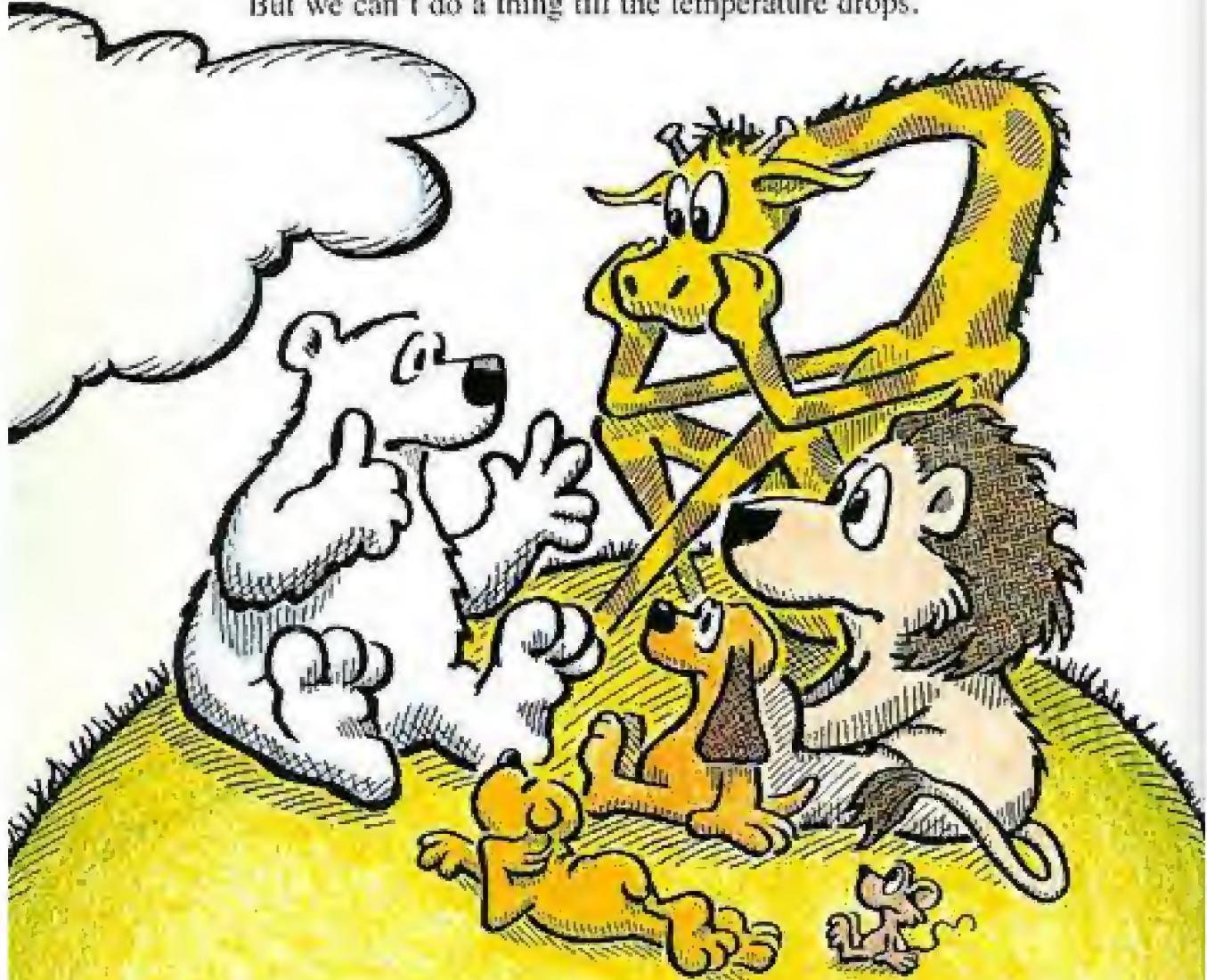


A snake and a turtle, a dog and a skunk,
All thought and they thought and they thunk and they thunk.

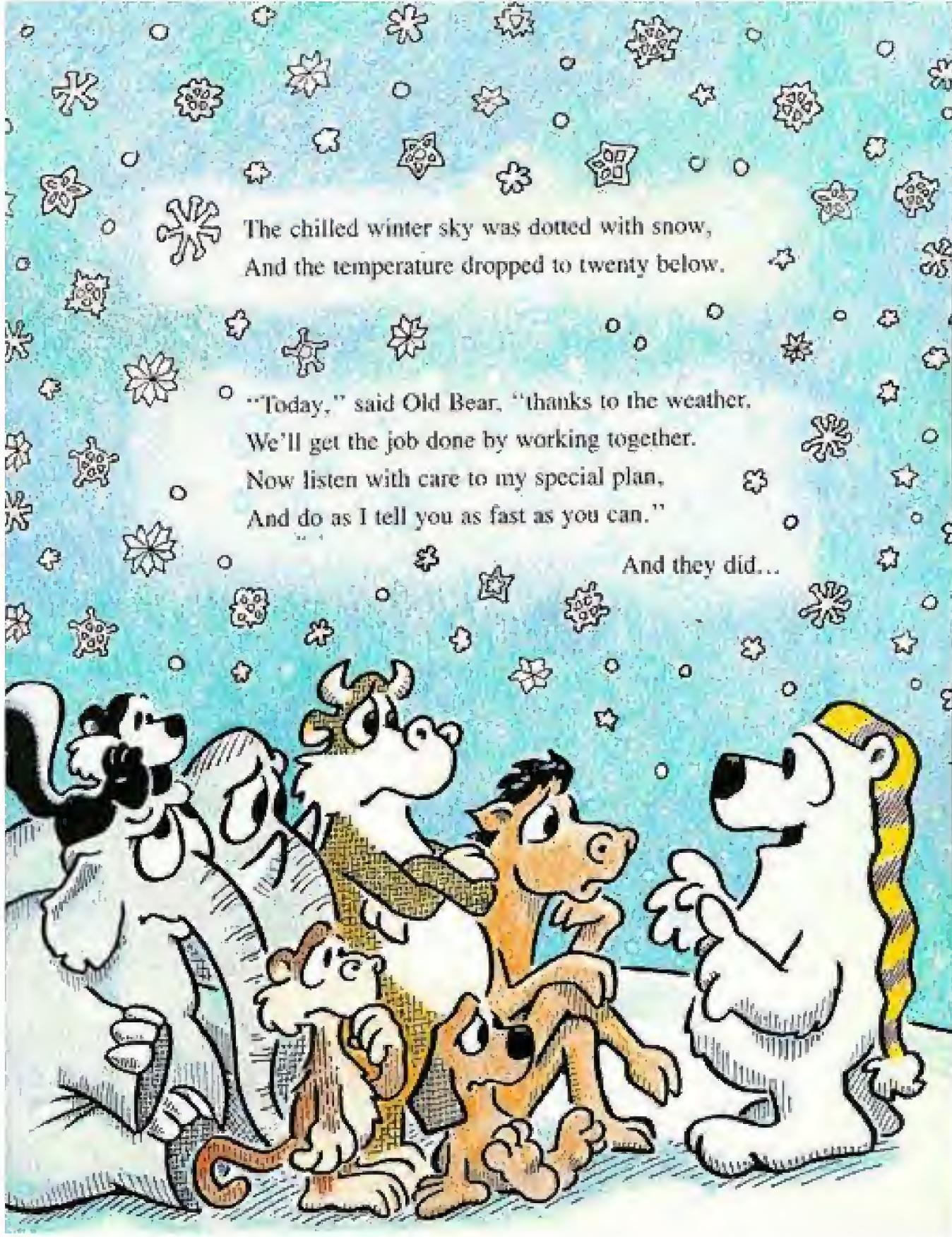
They stewed and brewed o'er the puzzling question,
Then someone proposed an amazing suggestion.
"Let's talk to Old Bear. He'll know what to do.
He's wise and he's kind, and a great thinker too."



So they ran to the woods and found the Old Bear.
As they told him what'd happened, he listened with care.
"This problem," Bear said, "must come to a stop.
But we can't do a thing till the temperature drops.



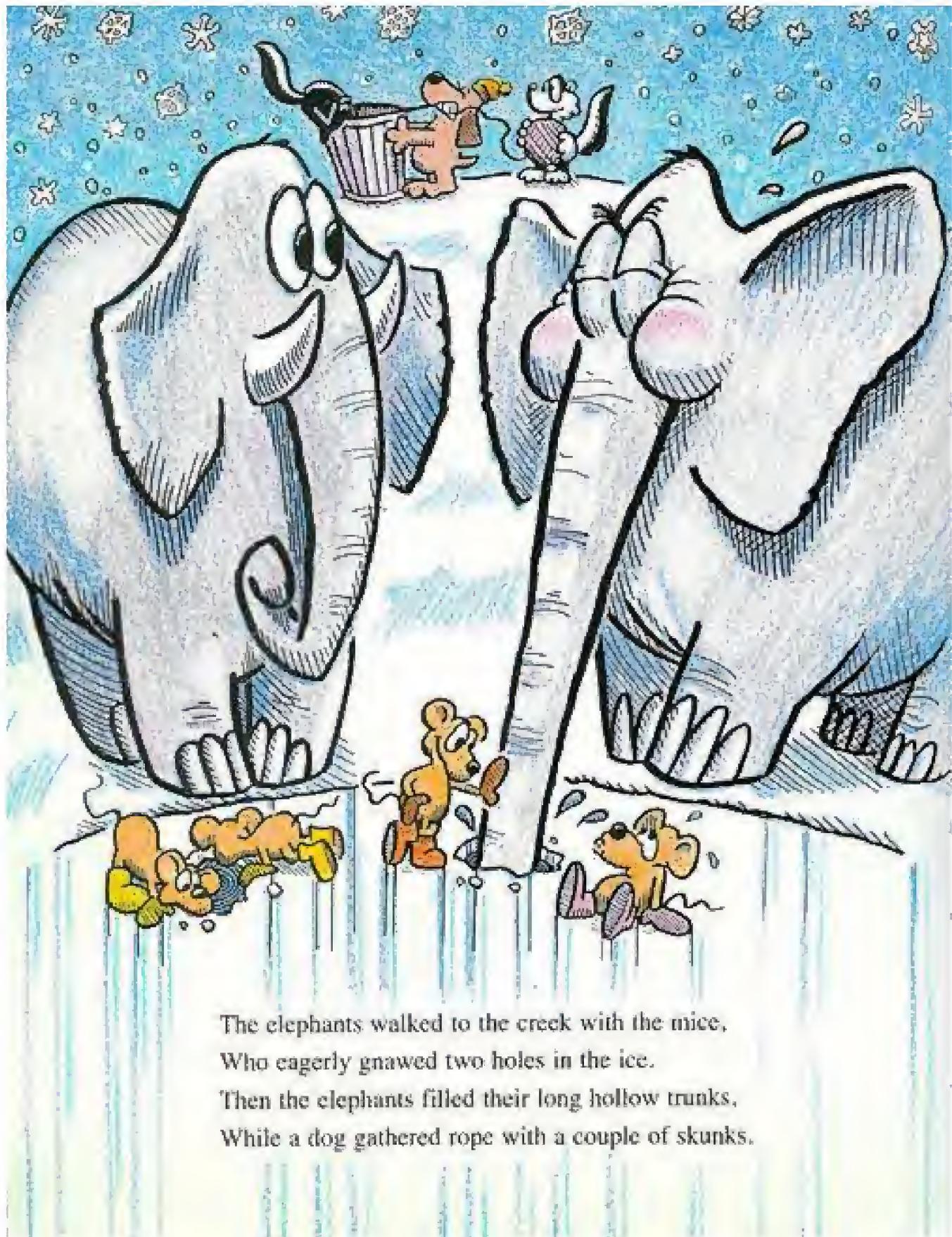
"As soon as it snows," he then wisely said,
"We'll all put a stop to this nuclear dread."
So they waited and watched through the day and the night,
And next morning's light brought a wonderful sight.



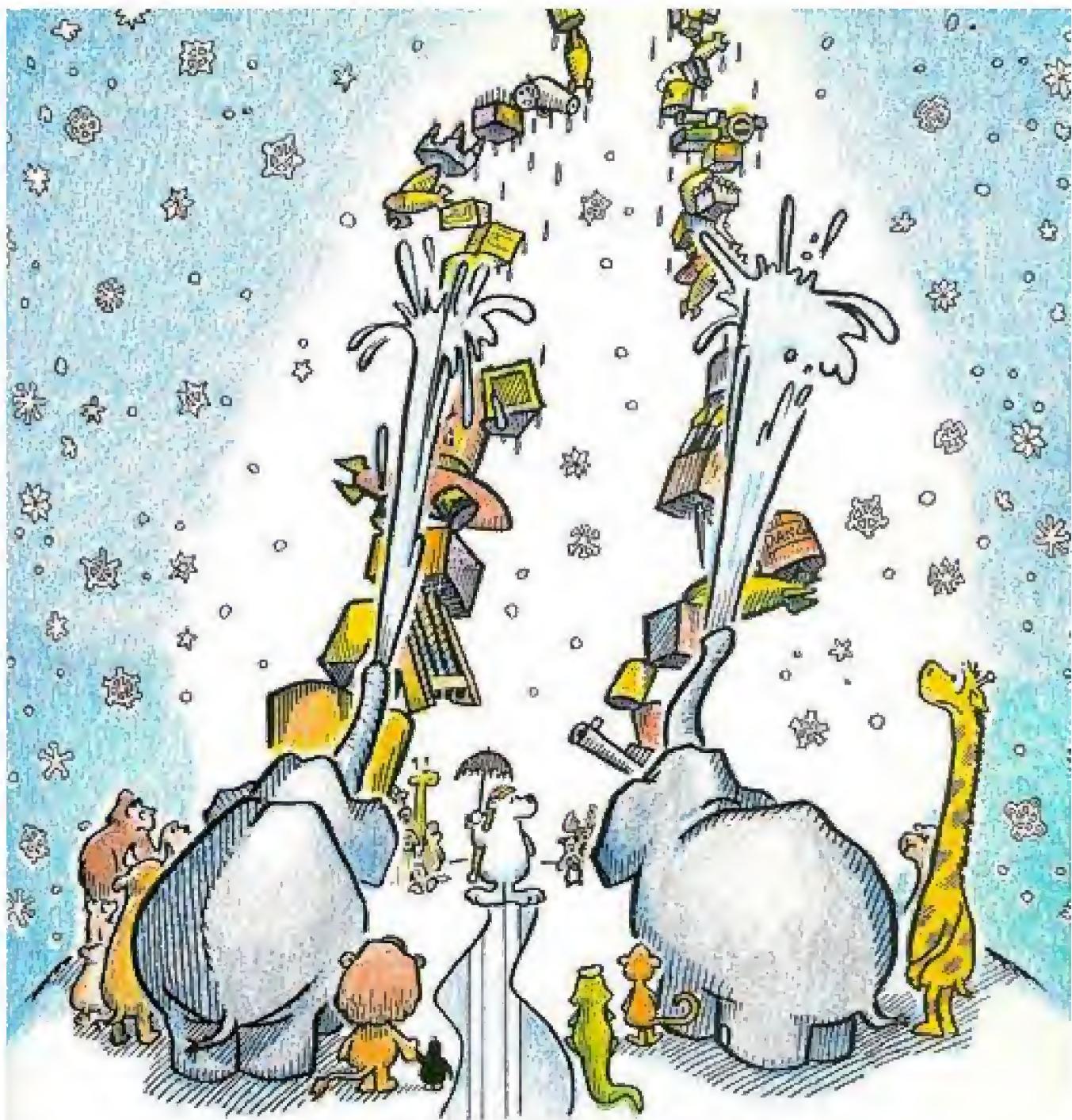
The chilled winter sky was dotted with snow,
And the temperature dropped to twenty below.

“Today,” said Old Bear, “thanks to the weather,
We’ll get the job done by working together.
Now listen with care to my special plan,
And do as I tell you as fast as you can.”

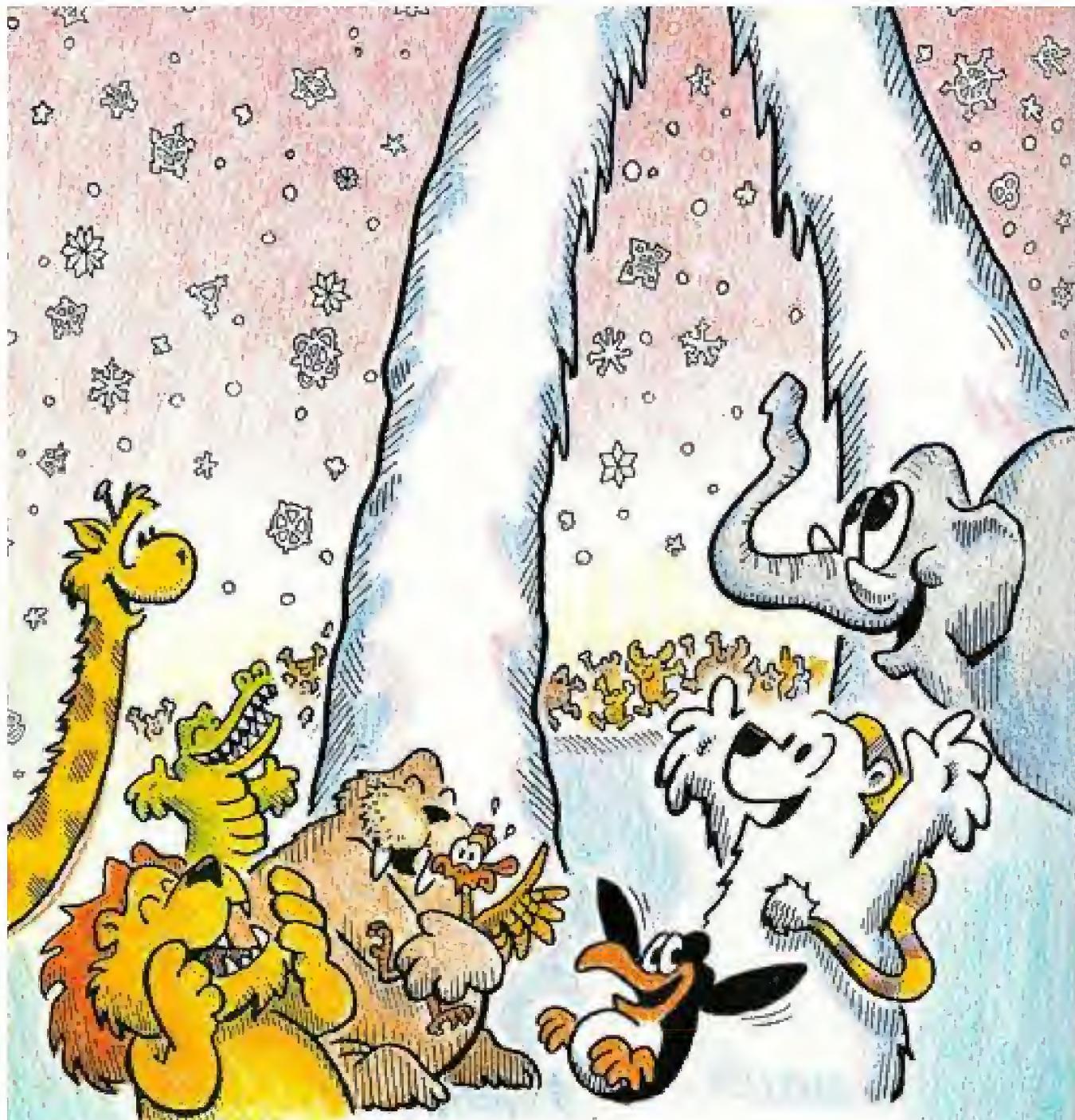
And they did...



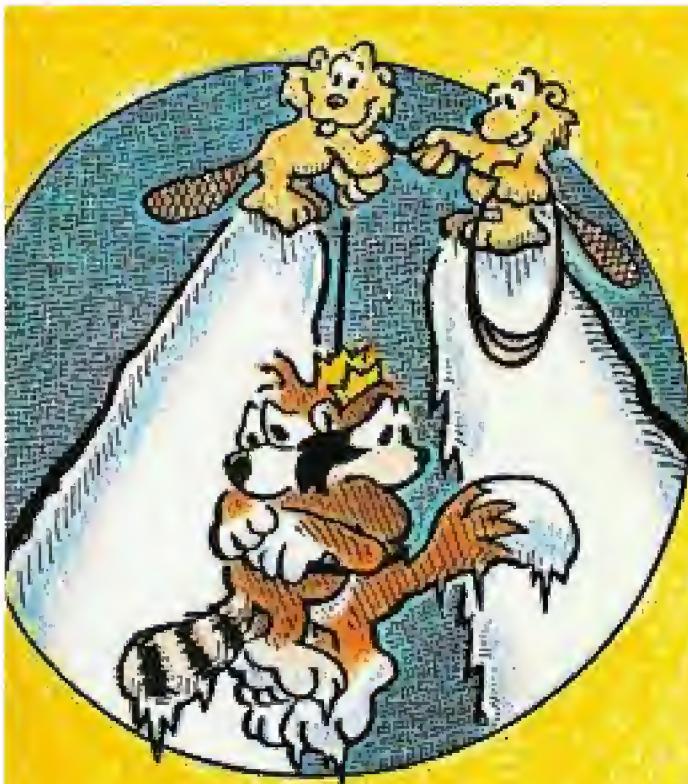
The elephants walked to the creek with the mice,
Who eagerly gnawed two holes in the ice.
Then the elephants filled their long hollow trunks,
While a dog gathered rope with a couple of skunks.



As fast as they could, they marched to the site,
Where both kings had nearly frozen all night.
Then Old Bear looked up and yelled, "Let 'er rip!"
And the elephants sprayed without spilling a drip.



When the elephants finished, all were quite pleased
To witness the first nuclear freeze.
And then it happened, just as Old Bear had said —
The piles were soon frozen as solid as lead.



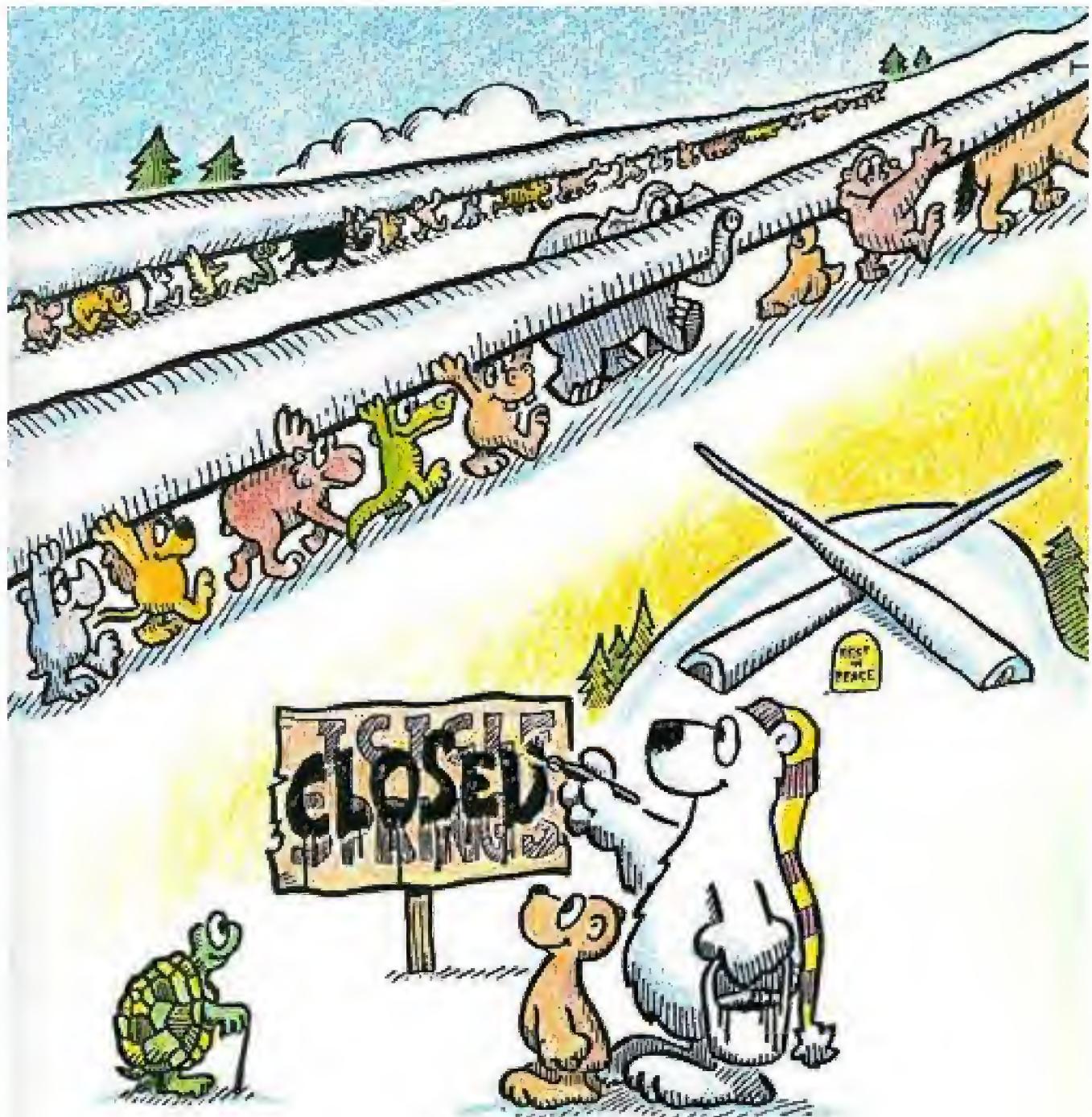
Two beavers climbed up
To the top of the mounds.
Tied the kings up
And lowered them down.

Then roping the towers; everyone tried
To let them down slowly to rest on their sides.

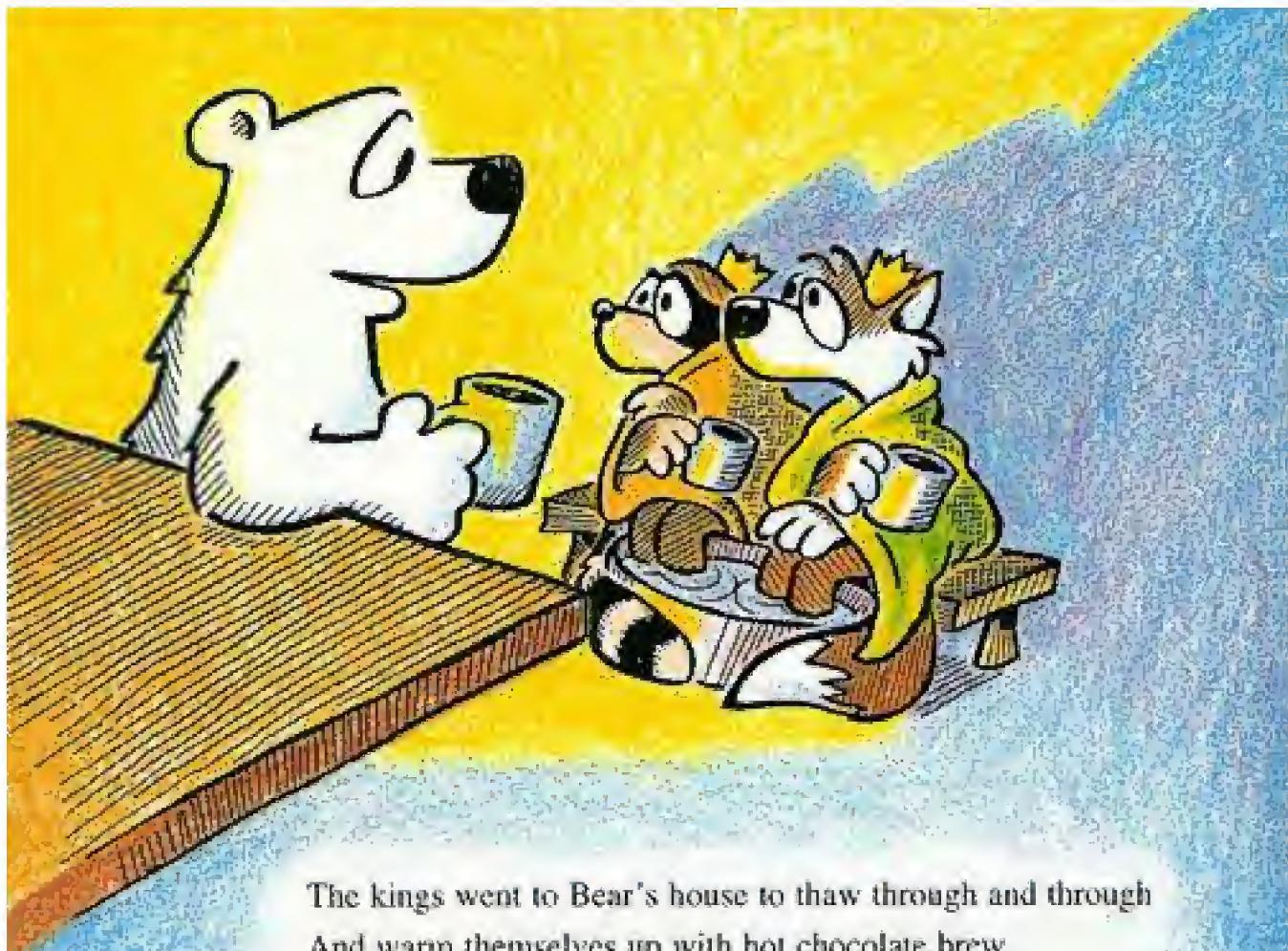




Together, they lifted those horrible things
And carried them off to Icicle Springs.



For Icicle Springs was the right place, they felt.
It never got warm there, so nothing could melt.
And that's where they left those ice mounds of war,
And no one went up to that place anymore.



The kings went to Bear's house to thaw through and through
And warm themselves up with hot chocolate brew.

Old Bear told the kings, "I hope you have learned —
Peace doesn't come easy — it has to be earned.

"It's nice to have power and good to be strong,
But threatening each other is certainly wrong.
A powerful mind is good for a start,
But you also need wisdom and love in your heart.

"And when you use all of these things as a guide,
You can take your differences and lay them aside."





Both Rex and Floyd knew Old Bear was right.
They turned to each other before saying good night.
And offering their hands in friendship forever,
They promised to rule more wisely — *together*.



And they hoped that others would soon understand —
On this starry night, Peace came to their lands.